

HERSETH SANDLIN STATEMENT ON RELIEF FOR DAIRY FARMERS

December 17, 2009, Washington, DC-Today, Rep. Herseth Sandlin praised the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announcement that it will begin implementation of the new Dairy Economic Loss Assistance Payment (DELAP) program. This program was created under the Fiscal Year 2010 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Appropriations Act, which provides funding for the USDA, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and related agencies for the upcoming fiscal year. Through DELAP, \$290 million will be available to eligible dairy producers through loss assistance payments.

"I am very pleased with Secretary Vilsack's announcement that the emergency funding for dairy farmers will go out to struggling dairy producers soon, providing them with much-needed relief," Rep. Herseth Sandlin said. "As a member of the bipartisan Congressional Dairy Farmers Caucus and the House Agriculture Committee, I have worked closely with my colleagues throughout the year to provide relief for dairy producers struggling during the economic downturn, including this emergency funding in the Agriculture funding bill for the 2010 Fiscal Year. As this relief becomes available, I encourage producers to check-in with their local FSA office to ensure they meet all eligibility qualifications and are up-to-date with their production records."

In January, the House Agriculture Committee sent a letter to Secretary Vilsack requesting USDA assistance in restoring the balance in dairy supply and helping to moderate food prices. As a follow-up to that effort, Rep. Herseth Sandlin joined with a bipartisan group of her colleagues in July in sending another letter to Secretary Vilsack urging him to continue to use all tools at his disposal to provide relief to struggling dairy producers across the country. A copy of the letter can be found [here](#).

In early October, Rep. Herseth Sandlin invited leaders of the South Dakota dairy industry to visit with Secretary Vilsack during his trip to South Dakota. Secretary Vilsack and Rep. Herseth Sandlin also had the opportunity to hear questions directly from dairy producers during the public Rural Issues Forum. To watch a YouTube video of Randy Shuring, Vice President of the South Dakota Dairy Producers, ask a question related to assistance for the dairy industry during the Rural Issues forum, click [here](#).

To ensure South Dakota Dairy Producers have a voice as these issues are addressed, Rep. Herseth Sandlin has sent letters of support for a number of South Dakotans who have been nominated to Secretary Vilsack's newly created Dairy Advisory Committee.

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